



Texas Department of Insurance

Division of Workers' Compensation

Medical Fee Dispute Resolution, MS-48

7551 Metro Center Drive, Suite 100 • Austin, Texas 78744-1645

512-804-4000 telephone • 512-804-4811 fax • www.tdi.texas.gov

MEDICAL FEE DISPUTE RESOLUTION FINDINGS AND DECISION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Requestor Name and Address

PAIN & LASER CENTER
3312 N UNIVERSITY DRIVE SUITE L
NACOGDOCHES TX 75961

DWC Claim #:
Injured Employee:
Date of Injury:
Employer Name:
Insurance Carrier #:

Respondent Name

AMERICAN CASUALTY CO

Carrier's Austin Representative Box

Box Number 47

MFDR Tracking Number

M4-04-7757-01

MFDR Date Received

March 22, 2004

REQUESTOR'S POSITION SUMMARY

Requestor's Position Summary as Stated on the Table of Disputed Services: "Ins. Carrier states that no additional payment will follow, & that full fair & reasonable has been paid. We are disputing this decision."

Amount in Dispute: \$4,876.55

RESPONDENT'S POSITION SUMMARY

Respondent's Position Summary: "The Provider has simply not met its burden of proof to establish that the amount it seeks meet the statutory standards under the Act for reimbursement of facility charges for the procedure. ...Provider has not met its burden of proof to establish that its charges comply with the Act's statutory standards for reimbursement and that Carrier's rate of payment does not. Therefore, Provider is not entitled to additional reimbursement."

Response Submitted by: Stone, Loughlin & Swanson, LLP, PO Box 30111, Austin. TX 78755

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Date(s) of Service	Disputed Services	Amount In Dispute	Amount Due
December 1, 2003	Ambulatory Surgical Services	\$4,876.55	\$0.00

FINDINGS AND DECISION

This medical fee dispute is decided pursuant to Texas Labor Code §413.031 and all applicable, adopted rules of the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation.

Background

1. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307 sets out the procedures for resolving medical fee disputes.
2. 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.1 sets forth general provisions related to use of the fee guidelines.
3. Texas Labor Code §413.011 sets forth provisions regarding reimbursement policies and guidelines.

4. This request for medical fee dispute resolution was received by the Division on March 22, 2004. Pursuant to 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307(g)(3), effective January 1, 2003, 27 *Texas Register* 12282, applicable to disputes filed on or after January 1, 2003, the Division notified the requestor on March 26, 2004 to send additional documentation relevant to the fee dispute as set forth in the rule.
5. The services in dispute were reduced/denied by the respondent with the following reason codes:
 - G – Unbundling
 - (880-129) – Denied per insurance: Service is included in the Global value of another billed service. 100%
 - M – No MAR
 - (855-055) – Outpatient procedures or surgeries of 29 minutes or less in O/R \$870.00

Findings

1. This dispute relates to services with reimbursement subject to the provisions of former 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.1(c), effective May 16, 2002, 27 *Texas Register* 4047, which requires that "Reimbursement for services not identified in an established fee guideline shall be reimbursed at fair and reasonable rates as described in the Texas Workers' Compensation Act, §413.011 until such period that specific fee guidelines are established by the commission."
2. Texas Labor Code §413.011(d) requires that fee guidelines must be fair and reasonable and designed to ensure the quality of medical care and to achieve effective medical cost control. The guidelines may not provide for payment of a fee in excess of the fee charged for similar treatment of an injured individual of an equivalent standard of living and paid by that individual or by someone acting on that individual's behalf. It further requires that the Division consider the increased security of payment afforded by the Act in establishing the fee guidelines.
3. Former 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307(g)(3)(C)(i), effective January 1, 2003, 27 *Texas Register* 12282, applicable to disputes filed on or after January 1, 2003, requires the requestor to send a statement of the disputed issue(s) that shall include "a description of the healthcare for which payment is in dispute." Review of the submitted documentation finds that the requestor did not provide a description of the healthcare for which payment is in dispute. The Division concludes that the requestor has not met the requirements of §133.307(g)(3)(C)(i).
4. Former 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307(g)(3)(C)(ii), effective January 1, 2003, 27 *Texas Register* 12282, applicable to disputes filed on or after January 1, 2003, requires the requestor to send a statement of the disputed issue(s) that shall include "the requestor's reasoning for why the disputed fees should be paid." Review of the submitted documentation finds no explanation of the requestor's reasoning for why the disputed fees should be paid. The Division concludes that the requestor has not met the requirements of §133.307(g)(3)(C)(ii).
5. Former 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307(g)(3)(C)(iii), effective January 1, 2003, 27 *Texas Register* 12282, applicable to disputes filed on or after January 1, 2003, requires the requestor to send a statement of the disputed issue(s) that shall include "how the Texas Labor Code and commission rules, and fee guidelines, impact the disputed fee issues." Review of the submitted documentation finds that the requestor did not discuss how the Texas Labor Code and Division rules impact the disputed fee issues. The Division concludes that the requestor has not met the requirements of §133.307(g)(3)(C)(iii).
6. Former 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307(g)(3)(C)(iv), effective January 1, 2003, 27 *Texas Register* 12282, applicable to disputes filed on or after January 1, 2003, requires the requestor to send a statement of the disputed issue(s) that shall include "how the submitted documentation supports the requestor position for each disputed fee issue." Review of the requestor's documentation finds that the requestor has not discussed how the submitted documentation supports the requestor position for each disputed fee issue. The Division concludes that the requestor has not met the requirements of §133.307(g)(3)(C)(iv).
7. Former 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307(g)(3)(D), effective January 1, 2003, 27 *Texas Register* 12282, applicable to disputes filed on or after January 1, 2003, requires the requestor to provide "documentation that discusses, demonstrates, and justifies that the payment amount being sought is a fair and reasonable rate of reimbursement." Review of the submitted documentation finds that:
 - The requestor has not articulated a methodology under which fair and reasonable reimbursement should be calculated.
 - The requestor did not submit documentation to support that their charges are fair and reasonable..
 - The requestor did not provide documentation to demonstrate how it determined its usual and customary charges for the disputed services.

- Documentation of the amount of reimbursement received for these same or similar services was not presented for review.
- The requestor did not submit documentation to support that payment of the amount sought is a fair and reasonable rate of reimbursement for the services in this dispute.
- The requestor did not support that payment of the requested amount would satisfy the requirements of 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.1.

The request for additional reimbursement is not supported. Thorough review of the submitted documentation finds that the requestor has not demonstrated or justified that payment of the amount sought would be a fair and reasonable rate of reimbursement for the services in dispute. Additional payment cannot be recommended.

Conclusion

The Division would like to emphasize that individual medical fee dispute outcomes rely upon the evidence presented by the requestor and respondent during dispute resolution, and the thorough review and consideration of that evidence. After thorough review and consideration of all the evidence presented by the parties to this dispute, it is determined that the submitted documentation does not support the reimbursement amount sought by the requestor. The Division concludes that this dispute was not filed in the form and manner prescribed under Division rules at 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307. The Division further concludes that the requestor failed to support its position that additional reimbursement is due. As a result, the amount ordered is \$0.00.

ORDER

Based upon the documentation submitted by the parties and in accordance with the provisions of Texas Labor Code §413.031, the Division has determined that the requestor is entitled to \$0.00 reimbursement for the services in dispute.

Authorized Signature

_____ Signature	_____ Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Officer	_____ April 5, 2013 Date
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YOUR RIGHT TO APPEAL

Either party to this medical fee dispute may appeal this decision by requesting a contested case hearing. A completed **Request for a Medical Contested Case Hearing** (form **DWC045A**) must be received by the DWC Chief Clerk of Proceedings within **twenty** days of your receipt of this decision. A request for hearing should be sent to: Chief Clerk of Proceedings, Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers Compensation, P.O. Box 17787, Austin, Texas, 78744. The party seeking review of the MDR decision shall deliver a copy of the request for a hearing to all other parties involved in the dispute at the same time the request is filed with the Division. **Please include a copy of the *Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Findings and Decision*** together with any other required information specified in 28 Texas Administrative Code §148.3(c), including a **certificate of service demonstrating that the request has been sent to the other party.**

Si prefiere hablar con una persona en español acerca de ésta correspondencia, favor de llamar a 512-804-4812.